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AP English

Smoking Speech

Hello and good afternoon. I am making this speech because I have found the cure for cancer. Okay I admit I’m blowing some smoke, I don’t have the cure. However I do know how we can prevent 30% of all cancer deaths. (cancer.org) Today I would like to explore an issue that has polluted our country and our world for many years: Smoking. I’m sure everyone here knows that smoking is bad. You know that cigarettes are addicting and unhealthy. We’ve seen those bold commercials that boycott Big Tobacco companies and the TV specials about people who live with the effects of smoking. However I’m not sure if everyone knows truly how much better things would be without tobacco. The world would be much richer, healthier and more populated.

I want you guys to take a moment and think about how great it would be if I actually did know the cure for cancer. How great it would be to know that we could prevent the death and the suffering that results from it. Now I want you to think about all the death and suffering caused by tobacco. There is no cure. It’ simple though, we just shouldn’t smoke. Cancer patients don’t choose to have their illnesses, they’re born with them. Unlike these patients, smokers have a choice. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the US. 400,000 people die each year due to smoking. (ENTUSA)

Some of you might be thinking, “If someone wants to smoke and doesn’t care about the consequences, then they should be allowed to.” The opinion makes sense, however, those smokers affect everyone else. I’m not just talking about secondhand smoke; I’m talking about the economic affect. Most smokers get sick and need medical treatment resulting in an annual cost of $50 billion in direct medical costs. The hospitals that treat these people are partly funded by our government. Where does the government get its money? From taxes, from *our* money. This money could be used to go toward finding cures for things that we *can’t* prevent like cancer. However, it’s needed bail out people who make wrong decisions.

Not only is the medical cost expensive, the cost of the cigarettes themselves is expensive as well. They sell for almost seven dollars a pack. And people become so addicted that they end up spending money on tobacco every day. Once again, a waste of money that could be used on more important things in our lives. Smoking leads to the following cancers: lung, larynx, oral, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, pancreas, cervix, kidney, and bladder. The most common of these is lung cancer. These cancers only account for half of the deaths related to smoking each year. Smoking also causes heart disease, aneurysms, bronchitis, emphysema, and stroke. Not all smoke-related illnesses result in death. Sometimes they just steal a person’s quality of life, making it harder to breathe, get around, work, and exercise. (cancer.org)

As I said before, smoking kills. People that smoke die from it. But the people around them can also die from it as well. Not only can secondhand smoke be harmful, but smoking also causes many fires. Thousands of people die from these fires every year. Imagine how many more people would still be on this earth if people didn’t smoke. People that potentially could have done great things. But unfortunately, people do smoke and there are deaths.

As a look around this room, I see some of the most intelligent people in our class. I know that *you* are smart enough to stay away from tobacco. But I hope that what I have said today will inspire you to tell that friend or parent of yours that they shouldn’t smoke. I hope you tell them how much better things could be if people didn’t smoke.